

PEACE.—When peace becomes more losing than war, we may prefer the latter on principles of pecuniary calculation. But for us to attempt, by war, to reform all Europe, and bring- them back to principles of morality and a respect for the equal rights of nations, would show us to be only maniacs of another character. We should, indeed, have the merit of the good intentions as well as of the folly of the hero of La Mancha. (To. Mr. Wirt. C. V., 595.)

PEACE SPIRIT.—No country perhaps was ever so thoroughly against war as ours. These dispositions pervade every description of its citizens, whether in or out of office. They cannot perhaps suppress their affections or their wishes, but they will suppress the effects of them so' as to preserve a fair neutrality. Indeed we shall be more useful (to France) than as. parties by the protection which our flag- will give to the supplies of provision. In this spirit let all your assurances be given to the government with which you reside. (Instructions, to the United States Minister to France, 1793. F. VI., 217.)

THE PEOPLE.—I am myself persuaded that the good sense of the people will always be found to be the best army. They may be led astray for a, moment, but will soon correct themselves. The people are the only censors of their governors; and even their errors will tend to keep, these to> the true principles of their institution. To< punish their errors too severely would be to suppress the only safeguard to public liberty. (Toi Edward Carrington, 1787. F. IV., 359.)

PETITIONS.—For ourselves, we have exhausted every mode of application which our invention could suggest as proper and promising. We have decently remonstrated with Parliament; they have added new injuries to the old. We have wearied our King with applications; he has not deigned to answer us. We have appealed to the native honor and justice of the British nation. Their efforts in our favor have hitherto been ineffectual. What then remains to be done? That we commit our injuries to the evenhanded justice of the Being who doth no wrong, earnestly beseeching him to illuminate the counsels, and prosper the endeavors of those to whom America hath confided her